



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 60267

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

October 10, 2003

Operations Division
Eastern Evaluation Section
Project Manager
Annette Chioma
(504) 862-2283

SUBJECT: EE-19-970-3562-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received by the District Engineer for a Department of the Army permit to authorize the following pursuant to: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403).

EXPAND A BARGE FLEETING AREA AND INSTALL A CARGO TRANSFER FACILITY IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

NAME OF APPLICANT: ST. BERNARD PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT, c/o Richard Wright and Associates, Inc., 1013 Colony Road, Metairie, Louisiana 70003

LOCATION OF WORK: In the Mississippi River, left descending bank, at a point about 90 miles above Head of Passes, at the Chalmette Terminal, in Chalmette, Louisiana, in St. Bernard Parish.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Install and maintain four mooring dolphins and four anchor piles with chains and buoys to reconfigure an existing barge fleeting facility. Add two tiers of 6-wide standard-sized barges (35 feet by 195 feet) to the upstream end of the fleet. Reduce the authorized four tiers of 6-wide standard-sized barges to 4-wide, and replace with a transfer rig consisting of a 68-foot-wide by 600-foot-long barge, a 50-foot-wide by 200-foot-long transfer barge, and a 55-foot-wide by 280-foot-long ship or barge. No dredging or fill will be required. The proposed structures are to be located within an area measuring about 1,400 feet lengthwise approximately parallel and 95 feet channelward from the low water reference plane (LWRP), and about 410 feet wide extending from the LWRP. The moored vessel will extend about 410 feet channelward from the LWRP. Revetment penetrations will be repaired in accordance with Corps specifications. Work will be performed as shown on the attached drawings.

The comment period will close 30 days from the date of this public notice advertisement. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit request. Letters must reference the applicant's name and the notice number, be addressed and mailed to the above address, to ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, shoreline, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The project site is outside of but in proximity to the Chalmette National Historic Park and National Cemetery, Chalmette, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The possibility exists that the proposed work may impact resources or presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical sites or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Interior nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of 0.0 acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental

Protection Agency and certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.



Pete J. Serio
Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosures